

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 EB-08
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07726

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR FR US XA
SUBJECT: FRENCH PROTEST AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S "AFRICA"
INTERVIEW

SUMMARY: GOF CONVOKED CHARGE TO PROTEST REMARKS
ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN AN INTERVIEW IN
MONTHLY REVIEW "AFRICA" ON SUBJECT OF FRENCH NON-
COOPERATION WITH US, NUCLEAR SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA.
END SUMMARY

1. AT THE INSTRUCTIONS OF FOREIGN MINISTER
GUIRINGAUD, WHO IS DESCRIBED AS "SURPRISED AND SHOCKED,"
DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS DE FOLIN CONVOKED CHARGE
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TO PROTEST INTERVIEW BY AMBASSADOR
YOUNG IN THE MONTHLY "AFRICA." INTERVIEW WAS REPORTED
YESTERDAY BY FRENCH PERMREP WHO HAS SEEN A COPY OF
IT. HE REPORTED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT, REPLYING
TO A QUESTION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF USG PERSUADING ITS
ALLIES FRANCE AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO ABSTAIN FROM ALL
ARMAMENTS AND NUCLEAR MATERIALS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA,
AMBASSADOR YOUNG USED WORDS "YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING
WITH THE FRENCH. THEY DO ANYTHING THEY WANT TO DO
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AND SEEM TO GET AWAY WITH IT. IT'S AMAZING. THEY GET
ON ANY SIDE AND ALL SIDES OF EVERY ISSUE."

2. FURTHER IN SAME INTERVIEW, ACCORDING TO PERMREP
LEPRETTE, US PERMREP STATED THAT US WAS CONSTANTLY
"UNDERCUT" BY FRENCH. HE IS SAID ALSO TO HAVE ADDED
THAT WHEN THE CONGRESS AT THE REQUEST OF A LARGE

NUMBER OF BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS PRE-
VENTED THE SALE OF ATOMIC REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA ALL
THAT PRETORIA DID WAS TO TURN TO FRANCE AND GET THEIR
REACTORS THERE. TO LATTER IMPEACHMENT, DE FOLIN
POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH SUPPLIER OF POWER REACTOR TO
SOUTH AFRICA IS FRAMATOME, WHICH IS PARTLY OWNED BY
WESTINGHOUSE.

3. DE FOLIN REGISTERED STRONG PROTEST AT ABOVE
LANGUAGE. HE ASKED INFORMATION ON ALLEGED PREVENTION
OF US REACTOR SALE TO SOUTH AFRICA. CHARGE UNDERTOOK
TO ASCERTAIN FACTS OF THE MATTER AND PROVIDE INFORMA-
TION TO THE QUAI. DE FOLIN POINTED OUT THAT IF REMARKS
OF THIS KIND HAD COME FROM A LEGISLATOR THEY COULD BE
DISREGARDED BUT BY US PERMREP AND IN A MAGAZINE
WIDELY READ BY AFRICAN DELEGATIONS AT UN AND THROUGH-
OUT THAT CONTINENT, THESE EXPRESSIONS WERE VERY
DAMAGING.

4. COMMENT: IN AGAIN CHOOSING TO REGISTER A PROTEST
AT THE DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS LEVEL, FRENCH ARE
CLEARLY SEEKING TO AVOID ESCALATING THEIR SURPRISE AND
SHOCK, WHILE STILL REGISTERING THEIR EMOTIONS FIRMLY.
FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ALSO DIRECTED A VIGOROUS PROTEST
THROUGH PERMREP LEPRETTE TO USUN.
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REMARKS
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